

LITERARY NOTES.

A volume of miscellaneous writings by Théophile Gautier, bearing the title "Fusains et Eaux Fortes," has just appeared in Paris.

At Weels, in England, a quantity of original documents numbering upward of a thousand, some of which date back to the thirteenth century, have been found in an old sealed press deposited in the almshouse. Many of the seals are in an excellent state of preservation.

In the Vatican library at Rome there is a book of accounts which records the fact that between 1580 and 1585 Pope Sixtus V expended 5,339 scudi (about \$20,000) in the repair of the Baths of Diocletian destroyed to their foundations, and that in less than three years 2,662,000 cubic feet of masonry were broken in pieces.

Mr. Frondé has written a preface for a work on "Russia and England: 1787-1880," just published in London from the pen of a Russian lady, in which he feels that there is no just reason for enmity between the two countries; that so far from looking at each other with distrust, they ought to be friends, in which relation the position of each would be much increased.

J. H. Ingram has completed the work on Edgar Allan Poe, which is known to have long engaged his attention, and an English publisher already has it in the press. It will be an exhaustive work in two volumes with a new portrait and fac-similes and will have for its title "Edgar Allan Poe: His Life, Letters and Opinions."

Mr. Ingram is said to have had much valuable assistance from the late Mrs. Whitman, the Poet of Baltimore, and from many other persons.

A few bright, beautiful story, well written as to style and manner, and of great interest, it seems to me in this country and t'evy from the serious and pathetic to the gay and humorous, while the characters are all well drawn, including more than forty new letters, fresh information about Poe's parentage, etc., etc. His life in England and America, his school days, his travels and most point career, his adventures in Europe and an explanation of the cause which drove him to suicide.

When Buckle's "History" was reprinted in this country the publishers did not send him anything for the first volume, although the book had a large circulation. More than this, the publishers endeavored to get through a friend Capel the necessary materials for a complete memoir, and that they should take this indirect means of doing so incensed him greatly. Had they made a direct proposal to him he would have been anxious, he says, to meet them in a fair and liberal spirit. He predicted that when the American volume came out it would "swallow with bouders," unless supervised by him, in which case, he should for his own reputation shun it by public advertisement. When the second volume came out in this country the publishers sent him \$23,000, but this is the only instance which Mr. Buckle mentions of any remuneration whatever. In contrast to this, Mr. Parker, his London publisher, offered him \$2,500 for the first volume of \$2,000.

Mr. Parker, having printed the first edition at his own expense, A part of the first edition Mr. Parker took up commissions and Buckle received over \$3,000 for it. Mr. Parker, the first editor for \$2,000, and Mr. Buckle for \$23,000, but this is the only instance which Mr. Buckle mentions of any remuneration whatever.

In the final volume of his "Life of Milton," Professor Masson brings together all the known facts in the history of Samuel Simmons's famous agreement with the poet—the agreement to pay him the sum of £5 when he should have sold the entire first edition of the "Paradise Lost." Fifteen years after the agreement was made, the house of Tonsons had acquired a copyright of the poem, and the paper passed into their hands as evidence of the original sale. Eighty years later, by the death of Jacob, the Tonsons finally, as publishers, ceased to exist, and the papers of the house, always carefully kept, lay astray in the hands of clerks, who took them as relics. For fifty years the whereabouts of the agreement were not known. The first subsequent knowledge of it was in 1824, when it turned up in the hands of a London tailor, who said that with other papers it had been left in his possession by a lodger, who had gone off in arrears for his rent. The tailor sold it with the others—which comprised Tonson's papers relating to Dryden, Addison and Steele—for the sum of £25 to a London bookseller who was then making an edition of "Paradise Lost." Ten years afterwards this bookseller sold the papers at auction. The Milton-Simmons agreement fetched £13 3s., being bought by Mr. Petherick, who at once offered it to Sir Thomas Lawrence for £200, a sum paid by the Tailor. It was not until 1839 when Petherick again sold it, and in the following year found a second purchaser in Samuel Rogers, who gave him 100 guineas for it. Rogers, in 1832, presented the document to the British Museum, where it remains to this day.

Milton's signature is certainly not Milton's own, although Rogers and many others have believed quite otherwise. The signature was, however, carefully kept by his family seal and the touch of his fingers. It is not at all like any known signature of Milton's. When it was written he had been fifteen years blind, and Milton's pen could not have been held by another man, since the writing is "too neat and regular for that."

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